

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 L-03 H-02

PRS-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01

RSR-01 /086 W

----- 129757

R 221131 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4192
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
CINCPAC

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 3806

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP MOPS LA

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY REPORT TO SFRC ON LAOS

HEREWITH MISSION REPORT FOR FIRST QUARTER CY 73.

1. US PERSONNEL IN LAOS (AS OF 31 MAR 73) : 1177

A. CIVILIAN DIRECT HIRE: 438

B. MILITARY: 184

(1) ARMY ATTACHE: 22

(2) AIR ATTACHE 8

(3) PROJECT 404 (INCLUDING TDY TO PROJECT
404): 137

(4) MARINE GUARDS AND US NAVY: 17

C. PERSONNEL ON TEMPORARY DUTY (LESS PROJECT 404): 36
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(1) CIVILIAN: 23

(2) MILITARY (LESS TDY TO PROJECT 404): 13

D. CONTRACT EMPLOYEES: 519

2. FRIENDLY MILITARY FORCES: 86,242

A. FAR/ FAN: 48,155

B. LAO IRREGULAR FORCES: 25,481

C. THAI VOLUNTEERS IN RLG IRREGULAR FORCES: 15,889

3. ESTIMATED ENEMY FORCES IN LAOS (AS OF END FIRST QUARTER CY 73): 108,500

A. NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA) EXCLUDING THOSE
ENEMY FORCES TRANSITING LAOS VIA HO CHI MINH TRAIL
SYSTEM): 71,500

B. LAO PEOPLE' S LIBERATION ARMY (LPLA OR " PATHET LAO") : 35,000

C. DISSIDENT NEUTRALISTS (DN) 2,000

4. ROYAL LAO AIR FORCE (RLAF) OPERATIONS IN LAOS:

AM TACTICAL AIR SORTIES (T-28): 8,573

B. GUNSHIP/ FLARESHIP SORTIES (AC/ UC-47): 467

C. AIR TRANSPORT SORTIES (C-47/ H-34): 8,497

5. CASUALTIES IN LAOS:

A. MISSION PERSONNEL: ONE KILLED

B. LAO:

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(1) FAR/ FAN: 173 KILLED, 540 WOUNDED

(2) LAO IRREGULARS: 564 KILLED, 1203 WOUNDED

C. THAI VOLUNTEERS: 297 KILLED, 1072 WOUNDED

D. NVA/ LPLA/ DN (EXCLUDING THOSE IN HO CHI MINH TRAIL

AREA RESULTING FROM ACTION OF NON- RLG FORCES):
2106 KILLED, 2632 ESTIMATED KILLED OR WOUNDED)

6. USG MILITARY CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS: NONE

7. US MISSION PERSONNEL MISSING IN ACTION IN LAOS: FOUR

8. FOLLOWING EXPLANATIONS APPLY TO ABOVE ENTRIES

PARA 1. C(1). INCLUDES 12 AUDITORS -- 7 AT USAID REQUIREMENTS OFFICE
AND 5 GAO. PARA 2. A - DECREASE FROM PREVIOUS REPORT REFLECTS
LARGELY

SHIFT TO MORE REALISTIC "ORSTER" STRENGTH, I. E.,
RECORDED PRESENT FOR DUTY STRENGTH. PARA 2. A ALSO
INCLUDES RLAF STRENGTH OF 2, 186.

PARA 2. C - DOES NOT INCLUDE 1386 THAI VOLUNTEERS IN
THAILAND IN TRAINING .

PARA 3. A - INCREASE (1500) FROM PREVIOUS REPORT DUE
TO APPARENT MOVEMENT OF SEVERAL HO CHI MINH TRAIL
SUPPLY/ SERVICE ELEMENTS FROM VIETNAM TO SOUTH LAOS,
AS WELL AS NET INTRODUCTION OF ADDITIONAL NVA MANEUVER
AND SUPPLY FORCES BEFORE CEASEFIRE.

PARA 3. B - FIGURE OF 35,000 INCLUDES ABOUT 13,000
CIVILIAN PERSONNEL WHO PERFORM MILITARY SUPPORT
FUNCTIONS, E. G., VILLAGE DEFENSE, TRANSPORTATION AND
HEADQUARTERS STAFFS, IN PL- CONTROLLED AREAS.

PARA 3. C - FIGURE OF 2,000 INCLUDES KHAMMOUANE NEUTRAL-
ISTS (APPROX 1,000) ON WHOM WE HAVE HAD LITTLE INTELLIGENCE
REPORTING SINCE 1968 EXCEPT FOR THEIR FREQUENT MENTION
IN RECENT PL PROPAGANDA.

PARA 4. A - INCLUDES 215 T-28 TRAINING SORTIES IN LAOS
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PARA 5. A - SEE VIENTIANE 0364 FOR DETAILS

PARA 5. D - FIGURE OF 2106 KILLED IS CONSIDERED HARD
AND RELATIVELY CONSERVATIVE, AND INCLUDES BOTH KIA AND
KBA. FIGURE OF 2632 ESTIMATED KILLED OR WOUNDED IN-
CLUDES PROBABLE KIA/ KBA/ WIA/ WBA. ADDRESSEES ARE WELL
AWARE OF DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING FIRM DATA ON ENEMY
CASUALTIES.

PARA 7 - SEE VIENTIANE 1029, 1713, 1867 AND 1883 FOR
DETAILS.

PARAS 2 AND 5 - DATA REPORTED NEXT QUARTER WILL REFLECT INTEGRATION OF LAO IRREGULARS INTO FAR, A PROCESS BEGUN DURING PERIOD THIS REPORT.

9. DEPARTMENT MAY NOTE THAT RLAF T-28 SORTIE FIGURE IN PARA 4. A IS AT VARIANCE WITH "WORKING SHEET" FIGURE GIVEN TO STAFFDEL LOWENSTEIN/MOOSE, AS SHOWN PAGE NINE, ENCLOSURE EIGHT OF VIENTIANE A-53. DISCREPANCY APPARENTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO "TYPE" IN WORKING SHEET AND TOTALS FOR THAT SHEET AS OF DATE OF PREPARATION IN LATE MARCH SHOULD BE CORRECTED TO 8,254 T-28 SORTIES.
DEAN

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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